

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 and 35-50 were pending as of the action mailed on 10 August 2007.

Claims 1, 16, 35, 36, 39, 40, 43 and 46-50 are amended. No claims are being canceled or newly added. No new matter has been added.

Support for the amendments to claims 1, 16, 35, 36, 39, 40, 43 and 46-50 may be found within the applicant's specification at least in FIG. 5 and page 7, line 14 through page 8, line 5.

Reexamination and reconsideration of the action are requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Interview Summary

The applicant thanks Examiner Nash for the courtesy of an in-person interview on 15 August 2007. The time spent with the applicant's representatives, Arrienne M. Lezak and Scott Heileson, was greatly appreciated. During the interview, the claims were discussed in light of the prior art. Recommendations were made by the examiner for overcoming the prior art. The recommendations have been incorporated into the claims. Specifically, and according to the examiner's suggestion, the applicant has amended the claim language to more clearly describe reserving extra capacity, or headroom, in an instance of a forum. This extra capacity allows users with a special designation or interactive relationship to enter an otherwise full instance of that forum.

Section 103 Rejections

Claims 1, 9-11, 14, 16, 24-26, 29, 39 and 40-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,425,012 ("Trovato") in view of U.S. Patent 6,651,086 ("Manber"), in further view of U.S. Patent 6,750,881 ("Appleman") and U.S. Patent 6,848,997 ("Hashimoto").

Claims 2-8, 17-23, 37 and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Trovato, Manber, Appleman, and Hashimoto, in further view of U.S. Patent 6,336,133 ("Morris").

Claims 15 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Trovato, Manber, Appleman, and Hashimoto, in further view of U.S. Patent 5,880,731 ("Liles").

Claims 35-36 and 47-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Trovato, Liles, Morris, and Hashimoto.

Claims 1, 16, 35, 36, 39, 40, 43 and 46-50

To expedite prosecution, claims 1, 16, 35, 36, 39, 40, 43 and 46-50 have been amended to better clarify reserving extra capacity, or headroom, in an instance of a forum, for users with a special designation or interactive relationship. The applicant respectfully submits that the claims, as amended, recite features not found in the combined teachings of Trovato, Manber, Appleman, Hashimoto, Morris, and Liles.

Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is therefore respectfully requested.

Remaining Claims

The remaining claims depend from or correspond to independent claims 1, 16, 36, 40 and 43 and are allowable for at least those reasons that apply to those independent claims.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, the applicant submits that all the claims are in condition for allowance.

By responding in the foregoing remarks only to particular positions taken by the examiner, the applicant does not acquiesce with other positions that have not been explicitly addressed. In addition, the applicant's selecting some particular arguments for the patentability of a claim should not be understood as implying that no other reasons for the patentability of that claim exist. Finally, the applicant's decision to amend or cancel any claim should not be understood as implying that the applicant agrees with any positions taken by the examiner with respect to that claim or other claims.

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Page : 20 of 20

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Respectfully submitted,

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